

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 SAM-01 SCCT-02

AID-20 PC-10 DRC-01 /183 W
----- 022662

P R 141125Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5342

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PO, TZ, MZ, US

SUBJ: FRELIMO ATTACKS IN MOZAMBIQUE

1. SUMMARY: REUTERS REPORT ALLEGES US MILITARY PERSONNEL MAY HAVE BEEN IN PLANE SHOT DOWN IN MOZAMBIQUE. DENIAL OF ALLEGATION FROM WASHINGTON WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR USE BY EMBASSY ON IF-ASKED BASIS. FRELIMO PRODUCES EVIDENCE THAT IT SHOT DOWN RHODESIAN PLANE AND TWO RHODESIAN AIR FORCE PILOTS IN TETE PROVINCE. END SUMMARY.

2. TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY NEWS RAN HEADLINE MAY 14 ENTITLED "PLANE SHOT BY FRELIMO MAY HAVE BEEN CARRYING US,
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BRITISH MEN." QUOTING REUTERS REPORT OUT OF NAMPULA, ARTICLE

SAID PORTUGUESE MILITARY SPOKESMEN IN NAMPULA HAD ADMITTED THAT DAKOTA AIRCRAFT WAS HIT WHILE ON FLIGHT TO MUEDA ON MAY 6. REUTER STORY REPORTEDLY SAID OCCUPANTS OF PLANE ESCAPED UNHURT, ADDING THAT ACCORDING TO ONE REPORT "PLANE WAS CARRYING MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM BRITAIN, US, SOUTH AFRICA AND BRAZIL." REUTERS NOTED THAT REPORT COULD NOT BE IMMEDIATELY CONFIRMED.

3. FRELIMO COMMUNIQUE FOR CABO DELGADO PROVINCE RELEASED MAY 13 CONTAINS FOLLOWING ACCOUNT: "ON MAY 6, A PLANE USED FOR TRANSPORTING TROOPS WAS SHOT DOWN AND CRASHED IN HOMBA." THIS IS PROBABLY REFERENCE TO SAME INCIDENT CITED BY REUTERS. FRELIMO COMMUNIQUE MADE NO MENTION, HOWEVER, OF ALLEGED BRITISH, US, SOUTH AFRICAN, AND BRAZILIAN TROOPS ON BOARD.

4. IN UNRELATED MATTER, FRELIMO COMMUNIQUE FOR TETE PROVINCE RELEASED APRIL 24 (TEXT CONTAINED DAR ES SALAAM A-82) REPORTED "ON APRIL 14, A 'DORNIER' RECONNAISSANCE PLANE WAS SHOT DOWN BY OUR COMRADES IN FINGOE. THE TWO PILOTS WERE KILLED. THE DOCUMENTS FOUND ON ONE OF THEM (A RHODESIAN DRIVER'S LICENSE NO. 90978--AIR FORCE), IDENTIFIED HIM AS MR. DURRETT PATRICK RICKMAN, BORN ON SEPTEMBER 24, 1947." MAY 14 DAILY NEWS ELABORATED ON THIS REPORT AND PRINTED BOTH SIDES OF RHODESIAN AIR FORCE IDENTITY CARD NO. R2666 FOR ONE PATRICK RICKMAN DURRETT BORN SEPTEMBER 24, 1954 (SIC). CARD, WHICH ALSO CONTAINS PHOTO OF DURRETT, LISTS HIS SERVICE NUMBER AS 6328. DAILY NEWS ARTICLE ADDED THAT FELLOW RHODESIAN LIEUTENANT NAMED WIEMAN WAS ALSO KILLED WHEN PLANE WAS SHOT DOWN. DURRETT REPORTEDLY COMES FROM GWELO, RHODESIA.

5. COMMENT: FOR USE ON IF-ASKED BASIS, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF WE HAD FLAT DENIAL OUT OF WASHINGTON CONCERNING ALLEGATION IN REUTERS REPORT THAT DAKOTA SHOT DOWN OUTSIDE MUEDA MAY HAVE BEEN CARRYING US MILITARY PERSONNEL.
BEYER

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Message Attributes

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